


BY THE COURT:

Dated this 18th day of March, 2020.



Hon. Michael H. Bloom
Oneida County Circuit Court, Branch II

STATE OF WISCONSIN

CIRCUIT COURT

ONEIDA COUNTY

ORDER REGARDING EMERGENCY TEMPORARY MEASURES

On March 12, 2020, Wisconsin Governor Tony Evers issued Executive Order #72 Declaring a Health Emergency in Response to the COVID-19 Coronavirus. On March 13, 2020, President Trump declared a National Health Emergency. On March 17, 2020, the Oneida County Board passed a resolution proclaiming the existence of a local public health emergency related to COVID-19. On March 17, 2020, the Secretary-designee of the Wisconsin Department of Health Services issued Emergency Order #5, which imposes a statewide moratorium on mass gatherings of ten (10) people or more to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. Emergency Order #5 expressly exempts from its requirements, among other things, facilities operated by the Wisconsin Court System.

Nevertheless, in an effort minimize large gatherings of people having close physical contact in the Oneida County Courthouse, to protect the health and safety of the litigants, judges, court staff and security, attorneys, jurors, other participants in court proceedings, and all other citizens that may be present in the Oneida County Courthouse, the Oneida County Circuit Court is issuing the following orders relative to the operation of the Oneida County Circuit Court. These orders are Emergency and Temporary Measures. The Oneida County Courthouse remains open

for purposes of court proceedings and any change in that status will be noticed on the Oneida County website, www.co.oneida.wi.us, and/or the Wisconsin Court System website, www.wicourts.gov.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, effective as of the date of this Order through June 1, 2020, or until further Order of the Court:

1. Mandatory court proceedings will continue as scheduled and as required by law, including:
 - a. Bail hearings for individuals arrested for crimes and held in custody.
 - b. Hearings in children's and juvenile court subject to time limits under Chapter 48 or Chapter 938.
 - c. Involuntary commitment hearings subject to time limits under Chapter 51.
 - d. Injunction hearings subject to time limits under Chapter 813.
 - e. Guardianship and protective placement hearings subject to time limits under Chapter 54 and Chapter 55.
 - f. Criminal jury trials mandated by the U.S. or Wisconsin Constitutions or by the Wisconsin Statutes
 - g. Any other court hearing subject to mandatory time limits under the Wisconsin Statutes.
2. All jury trials (other than criminal jury trials mandated by the U.S. or Wisconsin Constitutions or by the Wisconsin Statutes) from the date of this Order through June 1, 2020, shall be adjourned.

3. All court hearings (other than jury trials) that are already on the Court's calendar from the date of this Order through June 1, 2020, will not be affirmatively removed from the calendar by the Court. However,
 - a. The Court strongly encourages all parties to make arrangements for, and the Court will liberally grant requests for, telephone and video appearances by attorneys, litigants and witnesses, in all cases where such measures are practicable, subject to the prior approval of the assigned judge.
 - b. The Court will liberally grant requests for continuances of cases, with prior approval of the assigned judge.
4. Criminal intake court will continue to be held as scheduled, with the understanding that the District Attorney's Office and the Defense Bar are strongly encouraged to seek continuances in appropriate cases, consistent with Victim's Rights under Chapter 950, and subject to the prior approval of the assigned judge or the judicial assistant.
5. Criminal pretrial conference sessions on Tuesday afternoons will continue to be held as scheduled. However, the District Attorney's Office and the Defense Bar are hereby directed to reschedule any pretrial conference where no substantive activity other than further scheduling is anticipated to occur, consistent with Victim's Rights under Chapter 950, and subject to the prior approval of the assigned judge or the judicial assistant.
6. Small claims intake will continue to be held as scheduled, with the understanding that:
 - a. In all non-eviction small claims actions, litigants are strongly encouraged to respond in writing, rather than in person, or to request approval to appear by telephone, or to request a continuance.

- b. In all non-eviction small claims actions, requests for telephone appearances shall be granted. Defendants may indicate by telephone, off the record, that a non-eviction small claims action is contested, if and only if a current mailing address is provided, subject to the discretion of the judicial assistant and/or the Clerk of Circuit Court's Office.
 - c. In all non-eviction small claims actions, requests for continuances will be liberally granted, subject to the prior approval of the assigned judge or the judicial assistant.
 - d. In all small claims eviction actions, requests for telephone appearances will be liberally granted with prior approval of the assigned judge or the judicial assistant.
7. Traffic intake court will continue to be held as scheduled, with the understanding that litigants are strongly encouraged to respond in writing, rather than in person, or to request approval to appear by telephone, or to request a continuance. Requests for continuances will be liberally granted, subject to the prior approval of the assigned judge or the judicial assistant.
8. Child support establishment and child support contempt proceedings currently scheduled for March 18, 2020, and March 19, 2020, shall be rescheduled. The scheduling and handling of future child support establishment hearings (generally scheduled on Wednesdays before the Family Court Commissioner) and child support contempt hearings (generally scheduled on Thursday mornings before the Circuit Court Judges) shall be coordinated between the Family Court Commissioner, the Circuit Court Judges, the Oneida County Corporation Counsel's Office and Oneida County

Child Support Agency. Said coordination shall, to the extent practicable, strive to minimize the need for multiple litigants to be present in the courtrooms at the same time.

The effective administration of the Wisconsin Court System, in partnership with the various government agencies that regularly participate in court proceedings, is essential in maintaining the ordered liberty that all citizens in our state are entitled to. The United States, the State of Wisconsin, and Oneida County are all in the midst of a dynamic and fluid health emergency, the status of which could change at any time. It may become necessary for the Oneida County Circuit Court to implement additional Emergency and Temporary Measures, including cancelling some or all non-mandatory court proceedings indefinitely. The Oneida County Circuit Court thanks all citizens for your anticipated cooperation and patience during these extraordinary times.